

Press Release

**LAKE CITY
POLICE
DEPARTMENT**



Chief of Police Gerald Butler

For Immediate Release

April 24, 2025

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Injured Officer being Released from Hospital

On Sunday, April 20, 2025, at approximately 8:06 P.M., officers from the Lake City Police Department, alongside deputies from the Columbia County Sheriff's Office, were providing crowd control at a community Easter Celebration held at the Annie Mattox Recreation Center on NE Center Avenue in Lake City, Florida. The annual event draws several thousand attendees.

During the celebration, an altercation broke out among several individuals. As officers and deputies intervened, gunshots were fired, and a Lake City Police Department officer was struck.

Officer Marcus Hardison sustained a gunshot wound to his right arm and was transported to a nearby trauma center for medical treatment. Officer Hardison, a K-9 handler, has served with the Lake City Police Department for four and a half years. His K-9 partner, Niko, was not involved in the incident.

Officer Hardison is scheduled to be released from the hospital today, Thursday, April 24, 2025, at approximately 4:00 PM. Citizens who wish to observe the escort and show support for Officer Hardison may do so along the following route:

The escort will depart from UF Health Shands Hospital South Tower, travel east on SW 16th Avenue to SW Williston Road, continue north on Williston Road (which becomes SR 24), merge onto US Highway 301 North, and then proceed to I-10 East to Chaffee Road.



Report information anonymously by calling the LCPD TIPS line at 386-719-2068
or Crime Stoppers of Columbia County at 386-754-7099.



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